

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 20, 2004. Claims 1, 2, and 4-35 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 8, 10, 12, 14, 19, 21, 23, 25, 30, 32, and 34 are in independent form. Claim 3 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be mentioned further. Claims 1, 8, 10, 12, 14, 19, and 21 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,097,429 (*Seeley et al.*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,943,478 (*Dean et al.*).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 8, 10, 12, 14, 19, and 21 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that these amended independent claims and independent Claims 23, 25, 30, 32, and 34, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a server for making it possible for a remote client, the client being of a plurality clients to control an image sensing device via a communication medium and for controlling to transfer video information, which has been captured by the image sensing device, to the plurality of clients via the communication medium. The server includes an input device and a notification device. The input device selectively enters a first request or a second request generated by a user different from any one of the plurality of clients. The first request is for acquiring information identifying the plurality of clients to which the video information captured by the

image sensing device is transferred. The second request is for acquiring information identifying the remote client which has a control privilege to control the image sensing device remotely. The notification device, responsive to the entered request, reports the information identifying the plurality of clients or the remote client to the user.

Among other important features of Claim 1 is that the input device selectively enters a first request or a second request generated by a user different from any one of the plurality of clients, the first request being for acquiring information identifying the plurality of clients to which the video information captured by the image sensing device is transferred, and the second request being for acquiring information identifying the remote client which has a control privilege to control the image sensing device remotely. That is, assuming two clients X and Y are connected to the server and that client X has control privilege, if a user enters the mentioned first request, the server reports the information identifying the two clients X and Y, whereas, if the user enters the second request, the server reports only the information identifying client X.

The applied art, alone or in combination, is not seen to disclose or suggest the aspect of the invention defined in independent Claim 1, particularly with respect to an input device selectively entering a first request or a second request generated by a user different from any one of the plurality of clients, where the first request is for acquiring information identifying the plurality of clients to which the video information captured by the image sensing device is transferred, and the second request is for acquiring information identifying the remote client which has a control privilege to control the image sensing device remotely.

As discussed previously, *Seeley et al.* relates to a video security system physically located at a site being protected. In particular, *Seeley et al.* relates to an interface

between one or more cameras positioned about the protected site for monitoring purposes, and an alarm unit, as well as the interface between a camera and a remote operator. In the *Seeley et al.* system, the remote operator requesting a visual verification of the alarm condition from the nearest camera (column 9, lines 6-9) is also the same user who can establish the communication link. However, nothing has been found in *Seeley et al.* that would teach or suggest an input device selectively entering a first request or a second request generated by a user different from any one of the plurality of clients, where the first request is for acquiring information identifying the plurality of clients to which the video information captured by the image sensing device is transferred, and the second request is for acquiring information identifying the remote client which has a control privilege to control the image sensing device remotely, as recited in Claim 1.

For at least the above reason, Applicant believes that Claim 1 is clearly patentable over *Seeley et al.*, taken alone.

*Dean et al.* is cited in the Office Action as remedying the deficiencies of *Seeley et al.* as a reference against Claim 1. *Dean et al.* relates to the transportation of data from a content node to a presentation node on a network, and particularly to the presentation of audio and video information on a selected network node which is derived from a content node and is presented at a user node with assistance from a media content server. However, nothing has been found in *Dean et al.* that would teach or suggest an input device selectively entering a first request or a second request generated by a user different from any one of the plurality of clients, where the first request is for acquiring information identifying the plurality of clients to which the video information captured by the image sensing device is transferred, and the second request is for acquiring information identifying the remote client

which has a control privilege to control the image sensing device remotely, as recited in Claim 1.

Therefore, even if *Seeley et al.* and *Dean et al.* were to be combined in the manner proposed in the Office Action, assuming such combination would even be permissible, the resulting combination also would fail to teach or suggest at least those features of Claim 1.

Independent Claims 8, 10, and 12 are method, storage medium, and system claims, respectively, corresponding to server Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

With regard to independent Claims 14, 19, 21, 23, 25, 32, and 34, a common feature of these claims is storing information relating to objects in a zone within which images can be sensed by controlling an image sensing device, and in response to a request from a user, to report information relating to an object whose image is being sensed by the image sensing device to the user. That is, the user is notified of information relating to which object is being sensed by the image sensing device. This information is distinct from the information of Claims 1, 8, 10, and 12, which identifies the plurality of clients or the remote client to a user.

These independent claims, Claims 14, 19, 21, 23, 25, 32, and 34, were rejected under the same rationale as Claim 1 because in the Examiner's opinion they contain similar features. For the reason just stated, Applicant disagrees. Furthermore, nothing has been found in either *Seeley et al.* or *Dean et al.* that would teach or suggest at least those features of Claims 14, 19, 21, 23, 25, 32, and 34.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that Claims 14, 19, 21, 23, 25, 32, and 34 are clearly patentable over the cited prior art.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

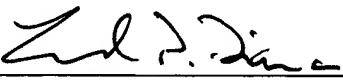
In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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